

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 H-01
NSC-05 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15
CEQ-01 /129 W

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P 121801Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0686
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03734

EMBASSY BONN PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF PARTY FOR
CAPTAIN HANSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: NPG: DRAFT MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

.
1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARA 2 BELOW THE COVER NOTE AND
DRAFT NPG MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE CIRCULATED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL STAFF. WE WILL COMMENT ON THE COMMUNIQUE
BY SEPTTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF COVER NOTE:

. ATTACHED, FOR YOUR ADVANCE INFORMATION, IS A COPY
OF AN INTERNAL WORKING PAPER PREPARED IN MY OFFICE, TO PUT
DOWN IN WRITING SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE POSSIBLE
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CONTENT OF THE COMMUNIQUE FOR THE FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL
MEETING. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MR. MUMFORD, WHO WILL CHAIR
THE AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP, WILL DRAW ON MATERIAL SIMILAR
TO THAT ATTACHED IN PREPARING THE DRAFT WHICH WILL BE
ADDRESSED BY MINISTERS AT THE END OF THE MEETING.
END TEXT OF COVER NOTE.

BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE:

. 1. THE 23RD MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP (NPG) WAS HELD IN FREDERIKSHAVN (DENMARK) ON 18TH AND 19TH APRIL, 1978. MINISTERS OF DEFENCE PARTICIPATING IN THIS MEETING WERE MR. PAUL VANDEN BOEYNANTS, BELGIUM; MR. POUL SOGAARD, DENMARK; DR. HANS APEL, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY; MR. ATTILIO RUFFINI, ITALY; MR. HASAN ESAT ISIK, TURKEY; MR. FRED MULLEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM; AND DR. HAROLD BROWN, THE UNITED STATES. DR. JOSEPH M.A.H. LUNS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO, CHAIRED THE MEETING. THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND THE THREE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS, SACLANT, SACEUR AND CINCHAN.

. 2. NPG MEETINGS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ARE A PRINCIPAL POLITICAL FORUM FOR NATO NUCLEAR DEFENCE AFFAIRS. THE NPG HAS A PEACETIME ADVISORY FUNCTION TO THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE; IT DEVELOPS POLICY GUIDANCE FOR MILITARY PLANNING; IT ESTABLISHES PROCEDURES FOR NUCLEAR CONSULTATION DURING CRISES AND FOR THE POSSIBLE DEFENSIVE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY NATO; AND, IT CONSIDERS MODERNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NATO'S NUCLEAR FORCES AS THEY ARE DICTATED BY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT. WITH THESE MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MIND, MINISTERS AGAIN RECEIVED AND WELCOMED A COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ANTICIPATED TRENDS IN THE OVERALL BALANCE OF NUCLEAR FORCES. MINISTERS CONTINUED TO NOTE AN UNINTERRUPTED BUILD-UP OF SOVIET NUCLEAR FORCES OVER THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF MILITARY MEANS IN SPITE OF THE VARIOUS ATTEMPTS BY NATO, AND THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, TO DEMONSTRATE RESTRAINT IN THE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS FIELD. OF SPECIAL CONCERN AGAIN WAS THE SS-20 MIRV'ED MOBILE INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILE, THE DEPLOYMENT OF WHICH SEEMS TO BE ON-GOING WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTION.

. 3. MINISTERS CONCURRED THAT DETERRENCE CONTINUES TO BE THE CENTRAL ALLIANCE OBJECTIVE AND THAT THE NATO TRIAD AND DOCTRINE OF FLEXIBILITY IN RESPONSE SHALL CONSISTENTLY BE ADJUSTED TO CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE BEING ENHANCED AND IMPLEMENTED. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF NATO'S OVERALL SECURITY POLICY AND THAT FURTHER STEPS, PARTICULARLY VIS-A-VIS THE SITUATION IN EUROPE, MUST BE ANTICIPATED IN THE INTEREST OF BALANCED AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. STRONG UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AND A HIGH

DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY ON THE PART OF
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE FUNDAMENTAL TO THIS PROCESS.

. 4. MINISTERS DISCUSSED IN DEPTH SUGGESTIONS FORWARDED
BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND AN AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
PRESENT THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCE POSTURE IN EUROPE. AMONG
OTHERS, THEY ASSESSED THE IMPACT OF THE DECISION TO DELAY
THE PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED RADIATION/REDUCED BLAST
WARHEADS FOR LANCE AND 8-INCH ARTILLERY FOR BOTH ARMS
CONTROL PROSPECTS AND OVERALL NATO FORCE MODERNIZATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 03734

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OF COURSE, OTHER ELEMENTS OF MODERNIZATION POLICY ALSO
RECEIVED ATTENTION AND FURTHER STUDY WORK HAS BEEN
COMMISSIONED.

. 5. MINISTERS DIRECTED ADDITIONAL FUTURE WORK ON
THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCE MODERNIZATION, NATO NUCLEAR WEAPON
EMPLOYMENT POLICY, MARITIME NUCLEAR WARFARE, AND NUCLEAR
CONSULTATION PROCEDURES. THEY ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE
AN INVITATION BY THE BELGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO

HOLD THEIR NEXT MEETING IN BELGIUM IN AUTUMN 1978.
END TEXT OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE.
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